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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/521,489	GOSSLINGHOFF, REINHARD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Louis K. Huynh	3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication filed on 01/18/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>1/18/05</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James Balazs (Reg. No. 47,401) on 11/22/2006.
- 3.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1:

The phrase: "and, while compressed ... the stack area" (lines 17-21) has been changed to:

--with said upstream and downstream compression jaws, and while compressed, strapping same with a strapping material, wherein the step of conveying the discreet stack (7) into the strapping station (12) includes moving the two compression jaws (10,11) into a stack area--;

The phrase: "wherein, for strapping," (line 22) has been changed to: --wherein the step of strapping includes--.

In Claim 2:

The phrase: "wherein, by tightening the loop," (line 2) has been changed to: --further comprising tightening the loop as--;

The phrase: "the strapped stack (7) is separated" (lines 3-4) has been changed to: --separating the strapped stack (7)--.

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In Claim 4:

The phrase: “, in order to separate” (line 2) has been changed to: --the step of separating--;

The phase: “, the compression jaws are retracted” (line 3) has been changed to:

--comprises retracting the compression jaws--.

In Claim 6:

The phrase: “, in order to isolate” (line 2) has been changed to: --the step of isolating--;

The phase: “, comprising” (line 3) has been changed to: --comprises--.

In Claim 7:

The phrase: “wherein, in order to transfer” (line 2) has been changed to: --further comprising transferring--;

The phase: --wherein-- has been inserted before “the second support element” on line 3.

In Claim 8:

The phrase: “the rear endplate” (line 2) has been changed to: --a rear end plate of the endplates--.

In Claim 9:

The phrase: “wherein, in order to transfer the” (line 2) has been changed to: --further comprising transferring a--;

The phase: --said transferring to the downstream compression jaw-- has been inserted before “comprising” on line 3.

In Claim 10:

The phrase: “wherein the” (line 2) has been changed to: --further comprising lowering the first support element, wherein a--.

In Claim 11:

The phrase: “the stack ends” (line 2) has been changed to: --the discreet stack ends--.

In Claim 12:

The phrase: “position” (line 9) has been changed to: --positioning--.

In Claim 16:

The phrase: “are” on line 4 has been deleted.

Reason for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method for producing and strapping recumbent stacks of printed products as claimed in claim 1; in particular, the prior art of record fails to teach a method comprising, among other steps, the steps of: positioning end plate at a downstream and an upstream end of each discreet stack; conveying the discreet stack into the strapping station comprising moving the upstream and downstream compression jaws into a stack area from a first side of the conveying surface in an essentially horizontal motion transverse to the stacking direction, and strapping the discreet stack comprising preparing a loop of strapping material on a second side of the conveying surface opposite its first side and positioning the loop around the discreet stack through an essentially horizontal relative motion transverse to the stacking direction between the loop and the discreet stack held by the compression jaws.

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- The prior art of record also fails to disclose and/or teach a device for producing and strapping recumbent stacks of printed products that comprises, among other things, means or equivalent thereof for positioning endplates at a downstream and an upstream end of the discreet stack, upstream and downstream compression jaws arranged to be moved from a first side of a stack area into and out of the stack area, and a strapping device arranged on a second side of the stack area opposite the first side, wherein the compression jaws and the strapping device move relative to each other substantially horizontally and transverse to the stacking direction.

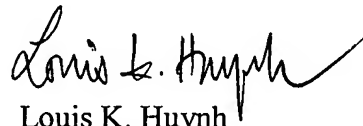
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Louis K. Huynh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

November 24, 2006